

# JAMES CONNER TIMELINE

## **March 1983-1995:**

Conner fired from Reading YMCA after 12 years employment. According to EEC investigative report, Madden reported being aware of “the situation” at the Reading YMCA in which Conner reportedly left teenage counselors alone during a end-of-summer program party, at which time they consumed alcohol. However, a former Reading YMCA administrator said instead Conner rented a bus for a party and consumed alcohol and smoked marijuana with the teens. The former administrator said Conner was immediately fired; the teen counselors, however, wrote letters to YMCA officials denying the incident occurred.

## **Summer 1996:**

Conner was hired by the Melrose YMCA as a maintenance worker and swim instructor. He later became a basketball clinic coordinator. He was hired by the Andover YMCA one month later as a site director for the school age program. He held both positions simultaneously.

## **Aug. 1, 2001:**

Conner was fired from the Andover YMCA for violating that YMCA’s “code of conduct;” showing a pattern of “favoritism” to a child who was later identified as Victim 2; having that child sit on his lap on two bus rides; being observed with his arm around the same child in the pool; and for continuing his “inappropriateness” with the child weeks after receiving a “reprimand.” Now-former Andover YMCA administrators contacted Madden and Dauteuil at the Melrose YMCA concerning the reasons for Conner’s firing.

## **Aug. 21, 2001:**

Conner began working in the Melrose YMCA’s school age program at the Franklin School site.

## **Summer, 2002-June 2005:**

Conner worked for Melrose YMCA school age programs at the Green Street Church site and the Roosevelt and Beebe school sites, and basketball clinics for elementary schoolchildren.

## **2005 [month not reported]:**

The mother of a child at a Melrose YMCA program wrote to Conner, asking him to stop pressuring her daughter to come to the YMCA after school to be Conner’s “snack helper” instead of attending homework extra help sessions at her school. The mother indicated that Conner would get upset with the girl when she’d arrive too late at the YMCA to help him. The mother also sent the letter to the child’s teacher, and Dauteuil and Whitworth at the Melrose YMCA.

## **2005 [month not reported]:**

Dauteuil received a complaint against Conner from a transportation coordinator, who filled in for a bus driver at the Malden YMCA, from whom the Melrose YMCA contracts bus transportation services. The complaint indicated that Conner sat at the back of the bus, wore sunglasses and had a particular child sit on his lap. Dauteuil said she did not recall receiving this information; no action was taken against Conner.

## **February-March 2008:**

A former Melrose YMCA group leader reported that a parent complained to her about Conner, saying that he hugged the parent’s daughter at departure time from the program. The mother said her daughter told her it was not the first time Conner had hugged the child. The mother requested that her daughter no longer help Conner with snacks at the program. A week later, the former YMCA worker reported this to the site coordinator.

## **Aug. 5, 2008:**

Another complaint was made about Conner’s behavior on a YMCA bus. A bus driver complained to a Melrose YMCA group leader about Conner’s inappropriate behavior with the same child indicated in the previous bus incident.

## **Aug. 13, 2008:**

The Malden YMCA’s transportation coordinator called Dauteuil to advise her that the bus driver was still concerned Conner’s behavior on the bus had not been addressed. Subsequently, the Malden YMCA’s president called Whitworth to alert him about the bus driver and coordinator’s calls. Whitworth relayed the information to Dauteuil. Dauteuil filed a written report about the bus incidents. No action was taken against Conner, though Dauteuil said a written note was put in Conner’s file about having him “identify ways” of protecting himself against “potential accusations” in the future.

## **Dec. 11, 2008:**

Madden wrote an e-mail to the parent of the child later identified as Victim 1, in response to an e-mail the mother had sent Dauteuil, expressing concerns that her daughter, who had aged out the YMCA basketball program, was still riding the YMCA’s bus to the program being run by Conner. The mother indicated that Conner had said something inappropriate to her child, and requested that Conner have no contact with the child. Madden’s e-mail indicated that “upper management” was unaware of the special transportation arrangement.

## **December 2008:**

Both Madden and Whitworth reported being contacted by Melrose Police Chief Mike Lyle regarding a complaint police had received about Conner from the mother [of Victim 1]. Whitworth said he told Lyle he would be “disappointed” if police didn’t check out the complaint.

## **December 2008:**

In a report written after Madden’s Dec. 11, 2008 e-mail — and signed by Conner, Whitworth, Madden and Dauteuil — it was noted that Madden and Dauteuil met with Conner regarding the mother’s request. It was agreed that Conner would not communicate with the mother or her child, and that any necessary communication would go through Madden.

## **Feb. 12, 2009:**

James Conner, 51, was arrested at his home in North Reading, after one of the two female victims came forward earlier that day with allegations that Conner had assaulted her. Several cameras and computers were seized by law enforcement officials upon Conner’s arrest, and numerous videos of girls were also seized. It was determined that several of the videos were shot at various Melrose YMCA school age program sites, after Conner hid camera equipment in vents.

## **Feb. 14, 2009:**

Conner was arraigned in Woburn District Court on two counts of rape of a child by force and one count of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14, and was jailed at an undisclosed location. Video evidence seized from Conner’s home revealed that Conner was alone with Victim 1 at the YMCA’s after school program at the Beebe School. Evidence was also obtained that Conner had regularly had children sit on his lap while working at the YMCA after school programs at the Beebe and Roosevelt schools.

## **Feb. 17, 2009:**

EEC’s Daly-Connors and an EEC licensor made their first “scheduled visit” to the Melrose YMCA. YMCA attorney Charles Gill was present. Daly-Connors and two Melrose police detectives conducted interviews with Dauteuil, Smith-Datalo and Russo. A tour of the facility was also conducted.

## **Feb. 23, 2009:**

Conner posted \$25,000 cash bail at a bail hearing and was released wearing a GPS monitoring device.

## **Feb. 25, 2009:**

Daly-Connors and an EEC licensor made a second visit to the Melrose YMCA, and conducted interviews with three “group leaders.” YMCA attorney Gill was also present.

## **March 3, 2009:**

Daly-Connors and an EEC licensor made a third visit to the Melrose YMCA, and with two Melrose police detectives, interviewed a “senior group leader” and Madden, and conducted a second interview with Dauteuil. A second tour was conducted, which this time included the outdoor play space. Melrose police detectives took photographs of “certain areas.” YMCA attorney Gill was present.

## **March 6 and March 11, 2009:**

Daly-Connors attended “meetings” and observed two child interviews at the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office.

## **March 17, 2009:**

Daly-Connors and an EEC licensor made a fourth visit to Melrose YMCA. Daly-Connors, the EEC licensor and two Melrose police detectives interviewed three assistant group leaders and Whitworth. Smith-Datalo was re-interviewed. YMCA attorney Gill was again present.

## **March 26, 2009:**

Daly-Connors and an EEC licensor made a fifth visit to the Melrose YMCA. YMCA attorney Gill was present. Russo was re-interviewed.

## **April 3, 2009:**

Daly-Connors and an EEC licensor made a sixth visit to the Melrose YMCA and interviewed “one group leader.” YMCA attorney Gill was present.

## **April 13, 2009:**

The Investigation Report was issued by the EEC.

## **April 17, 2009:**

The EEC issued an order of sanctions against the Melrose YMCA.

## **April 28, 2009:**

The Melrose YMCA issued a rebuttal of the EEC’s investigative report and order of sanctions.

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